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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 WELLIN 00163 140511Z
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /024 W
----------140513Z 037466 /20
P 140324Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2576

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 0163

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP (MCCLOSKEY, PAUL)
SUBJECT: CODEL MCCLOSKEY

REF: STATE 006780

1. FOLLOWING, FOR DEPARTMENT TO PASS AS APPROPRIATE TO REPRESENTATIVE MCCLOSKEY, IS EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR PEACE ACTION.

(A) IT IS A LOOSE ORGANIZATION OF ASSORTED "PEACE" GROUPS, EACH HOLDING SOMEWHAT DIFFERING MOTIVATIONS FOR ITS PARTICIPATION IN CONVENTION (ORGANIZING GROUPS INCLUDE COMMITTEE FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, GREENPEACE, PEACE SQUADRON, FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE SOCIETY, SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM, WORLD PEACE COUNCIL);

(B) IT WILL BE STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY MOSCOW-ORIENTED FRONT GROUPS, E.G. WORLD PEACE COUNCIL AND NEW ZELAND SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY; (THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE SOVIET UNION PEACE COUNCIL WILL BE AMONG THE OVERSEAS VISITORS PARTICIPATING.)

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(C) THE NUCLEAR ARMS POLICY OF THE USG, THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN NPWS IN NEW ZEALAND PORTS AND THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S REJECTION OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE ARE CERTAIN TO BE PRINCIPAL FOCI OF THE CONVENTION.

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ACCORDING TO THE CONVENTION PAMPHLET, QUOTE THE CONVENTION WILL BE FIRST OF ALL A CONCERTED EXPRESSION OF DISSENT FROM THE PRESENT POLICY...THE PRESENCE OF NUCLEAR-ARMED WARSHIPS DOES MORE TO THREATEN OUR SECURITY THAN PROTECT US. IF NUCLEAR WAR WERE TO BREAK OUT, THESE SHIPS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BECOME TARGETS FOR THE KIND OF MISSILES WHICH WOULD OBLITERATE THE WHOLE COUNTRY. THERE IS ALSO CONCERN THAT PRESENT GOVERNMENT POLICY COULD EVENTUALLY LEAD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR BASE IN NEW ZEALAND...UNQUOTE.

2. REPRESENTATIVE MCCLOSKEY'S ASSESSMENT FOR REASONS FOR HIS INVITATION ARE PROBABLY ACCURATE. CONGRESSMAN'S POSITION ON U.S. NUCLEAR POLICY WILL LIKELY COME AS SURPRISE TO CONVENTION ORGANIZERS AND MAY ADD ELEMENT OF BLANCE TO PROCEEDINGS. BUT WE JUDGE IT UNLIKELY CONGRESSMAN WILL BE ABLE TO ALTER THE ANTI-U.S. THURST OF CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS OR RESOLUTIONS, AND HIS PARTICIPATION, REGARDLESS OF HIS POLICY POSITIONS, WILL LEND DEGREE OF LEGITIMACY TO CONVENTION WHICH IT WOULD OTHERWISE LACK. WE ARE SURE CONGRESSMAN ALSO REALIZES THAT HV PARTICIPATION IN CONVENTION IN MANNER WHICH PRESENTS HIM AS DEFENDER OF USG EXECUTIVE'S NUCLEAR POLICY WILL MAKE HIM "ODD MAN OUT" AMONG OTHER PARTICIPANTS.

3. EMBASSY HAS NO OBJECTION TO CONGRESSMAN'S ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION AND WILL BE HAPPY EXTEND ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE.
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